

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast October 19<sup>th</sup> 2012

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource

**Government  
of Alberta** ■

[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

**Vocabulary** - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
temporarily – for a limited time only, not permanent
recall – to call back to a place or to work
processing – to cut, chop or add chemicals to food products to make them ready to eat
unemployed – not having a job
completing – to finish or doing something
resume – to begin something again after a break

1. the flood I temporarily After out of moved my apartment.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. after The company the workers recalled the strike.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. XL beef plant processes at the in Brooks.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. unemployed is looking for a job. My and sister

\_\_\_\_\_

5. close to completing I am my degree.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. my apartment will resume in I living on Thursday.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Extra definition: displaced:** to make someone or something leave their usual place or usual situation, such as place of work

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

## Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

- \_\_\_ All of the workers at XL were called back to work this week.
- \_\_\_ The workers who were recalled worked for only one day.
- \_\_\_ Many of the workers at XL are temporary foreign workers.
- \_\_\_ Temporary foreign workers who lose their jobs in Brooks will be forced to leave Canada.
- \_\_\_ XL Foods can now resume production at the plant in Brooks.

## Discussion Question

Why do you think many of the workers at XL are temporary foreign workers? What do you think should happen to the workers if the plant is closed for a long time?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

tips	<u>investigate</u>	complain
bullying	anxiety	reaction
outrage	victimize (to make a person suffer)	stalker

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**Online stalker** – someone who follows a person around on line, sending messages and taunting or threatening a person.

1. Police will investigate the death of the teen.
2. The RCMP are asking for any \_\_\_\_\_ that will help them in their search.
3. The online \_\_\_\_\_ has stopped his horrible behaviour.
4. Depression and \_\_\_\_\_ are often effects of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. There is public \_\_\_\_\_ about the death of the young teen.
6. If you experience a problem with something you can \_\_\_\_\_ to the manager.
7. What was your \_\_\_\_\_ to the news about the new arena deal collapsing?
8. People who \_\_\_\_\_ others should be punished.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Where are police getting tips from?
2. How old was Amanda Todd when she killed herself?
3. Why did Amanda Todd commit suicide?
4. What did Amanda Todd post on YouTube?
5. What are people saying about the way Amanda was treated by bullies?
6. How is the Todd family being re-victimized?
7. What are some effects of bullying that Amanda experienced?

### Discussion Question

How can we stop bullying? How should society deal with people who bully?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
<b>g</b>	1. <b>get in each other's space</b>	a) having many supporters or fans
	2. debate	b) people who are taking part in something
	3. intense	c) a tie, neither side is winning
	4. reduce	d) to rudely interrupt while others are talking
	5. popularity	e) a formal discussion of major issues
	6. speak over others	f) to be doing well
	7. deadlock	<b>g) to get too personal and make someone angry</b>
	8. in good form	h) showing what something looks like
	9. participants	i) to make smaller
	10. reflection	j) serious, strong

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. In the 2 <sup>nd</sup> presidential debate, President Obama was _____	a) fighting for his political life. b) fighting for his rights.
2. The debate on Tuesday was _____	a) full of good humour. b) full of interruptions.
3. _____ won the first presidential debate.	a) Mitt Romney b) Barack Obama
4. Obama tried to reduce Romney's _____	a) rising popularity. b) dishonesty.
5. The voter participants were supposed to _____ but they were often confused.	a) choose the best candidate b) ask questions
6. The candidates _____ and spoke over each other's lines.	a) were intense b) got in each other's space

### Discussion Question

Do you think it is important for Canadians to follow the American elections? Why?

## Language Focus

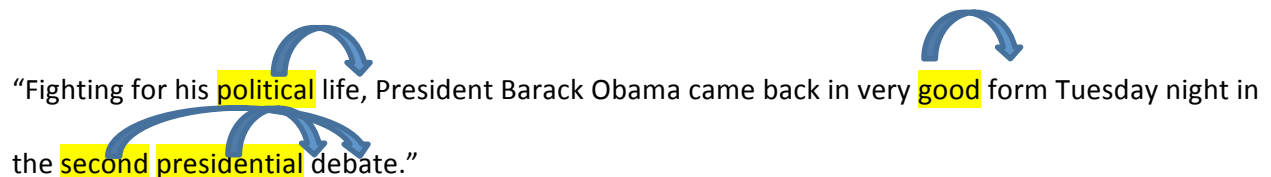
### Identifying Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe or give more information about nouns and pronouns. We use adjective to enhance ideas or help us describe something clearly. An adjective usually comes before a noun that it modifies.

Adjectives tell us an observation, opinion, a physical description, the origin, the material, purpose and the number of nouns. Adjectives are not necessary for a sentence to make sense, but they help our reader/listener better understand what we are describing.

Look at some examples from the stories this week:

“Fighting for his **political** life, President Barack Obama came back in very **good** form Tuesday night in the **second presidential** debate.”



Without adjectives = “Fighting for his life, President Barack Obama came back in form Tuesday night in the second debate.”

“...all **displaced temporary foreign** workers in Brooks would be allowed to stay in Canada.”



Without adjectives = all workers in Brooks would be allowed to stay in Canada.

Look though the stories this week and see how many adjectives you can find. Highlight the adjectives and draw an arrow to the nouns or pronouns they describe.

*Some answers are in the appendix.*

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER 12 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hello this is Nirmala Naidoo. You're listening to Learning English with CBC news for October 19 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	XL Foods in Brooks announced it's handing over control of its plants to one of the largest meat processors in the world: JBS. The Brazilian-based company - will manage XL Foods for 60 days - with an option to buy it. The union and many politicians - are welcoming the news. Meantime, it's been a week of ups and downs for XL Foods workers. On the weekend, XL temporarily laid off 2000 workers. Then on Monday, the company said it was recalling 800 of those employees. But the 800 workers who were called back were then unemployed once again - just one day after completing the work. On Wednesday - they were "off the job" again. Many workers are temporary foreign workers - who cannot stay in the country without a job. But on Tuesday, the Federal Immigration Minister's office, told CBC News that all displaced temporary foreign workers in Brooks will be allowed to stay in Canada. They'll be allowed to either return to work at the meat processing plant when it reopens, or they will be allowed to get a new job. XL Foods is now waiting to see if it will be allowed to resume production.	
Story 2	The RCMP say tips from around the world are coming in as police investigate the death of a 15-year-old Port Coquitlam, B.C., girl who committed suicide earlier this month after years of bullying. Amanda Todd died one month after posting a YouTube video in which she complained about an online stalker and bullying by peers that caused her anxiety, depression, as well as drug and alcohol abuse. Todd's death has caused a huge reaction. People are saying it has caused them to feel great sadness and outrage about the way the teenager was treated by bullies. Police also had to ask people to stop posting hurtful comments and pictures online that continue to re-victimize the Todd family and others.	
Story 3	Fighting for his political life, President Barack Obama came back in very good form Tuesday night in the second presidential debate. The debate was full of interruptions and was nothing like the first, fairly boring debate that Romney won. Obama tried to reduce Mitt Romney's rising popularity by saying he was dishonest and extreme. Both men were jumping off their stools during the debate. Almost lost, at times, were the voter participants who were supposed to play a major role in asking questions. The candidates got in each other's space and spoke over each other's lines. The debate was a reflection of the presidential race itself – an intense, deadlocked contest.	

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

1. After the flood, I temporarily moved out of my apartment.
2. The company recalled the workers after the strike.
3. XL processes beef at the plant in Brooks.
4. My sister is unemployed and looking for a job.
5. I am close to completing my degree.
6. I will resume living in my apartment on Thursday.

#### Listening

1. **F** All of the workers at XL were called back to work this week.
2. **T** The workers who were recalled, worked for only one day.
3. **T** Many of the workers at XL are temporary foreign workers.
4. **F** Temporary foreign workers who lose their jobs in Brooks will be forced to leave Canada.
5. **F** XL Foods can now resume production at the plant in Brooks.

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

1. Police will investigate the death of the teen.
2. The RCMP are asking for any tips that will help them in their search.
3. The online stalker has stopped his horrible behaviour.
4. Depression and anxiety are often effects of bullying.
5. There is public outrage about the death of the young teen.
6. If you experience a problem with something you can complain to the manager.
7. What was your reaction to the news about the new arena deal collapsing?
8. People who victimize others should be punished.

#### Listening

1. Where are police getting tips from? *Police are getting tips from around the world.*
2. How old was Amanda Todd when she killed herself? *Amanda was 15 years old.*
3. Why did Amanda Todd commit suicide? *Amanda was bullied for years. She suffered from anxiety and depression.*
4. What did Amanda Todd post on YouTube? *She posted a video in which she complained about an online stalker and the bullying she experience.*
5. What are people saying about the way Amanda was treated by bullies? *People are saying they are sad and outraged about the way Amanda was treated.*

6. How is the Todd family being re-victimized? *People are posting hurtful comments and pictures online.*
7. What are some effects of bullying that Amanda experienced? *Amanda experienced anxiety, depression as well as drug and alcohol abuse.*

### News story 3

### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
<b>g</b>	1. get in each other's space	a) having many supporters or fans
<b>e</b>	2. debate	b) people who are taking part in something
<b>j</b>	3. intense	c) a tie, neither side is winning
<b>i</b>	4. reduce	d) to rudely interrupt while others are talking
<b>a</b>	5. popularity	e) a formal discussion of major issues
<b>d</b>	6. speak over others	f) to be doing well
<b>c</b>	7. deadlock	<b>g) to get too personal and make someone angry</b>
<b>f</b>	8. in good form	h) showing what something looks like
<b>b</b>	9. participants	i) to make smaller
<b>h</b>	10. reflection	j) serious, strong

### Listening

1. In the presidential debate, President Obama was _____	a) fighting for his political life. b) fighting for his rights.
2. The debate on Tuesday was _____	a) full of good humour. b) full of interruptions.
3. _____ won the first presidential debate.	a) Mitt Romney b) Barack Obama
4. Obama tried to reduce Romney's _____	a) rising popularity. b) dishonesty.
5. The voter participants were supposed to _____ but they were often confused.	a) choose the best candidate b) ask questions
6. The candidates _____ and spoke over each other's lines.	a) were intense b) got in each other's space

### Language Focus

"...she complained about an **online** stalker..."

"Todd's death caused a **huge** reaction."

"...allowed to get a **new** job."